

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19659 01 OF 02 201910Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICA-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 EUR-12

L-03 ISO-00 OIC-02 /058 W

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R 201852Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3567

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 19659

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO OCON PORG

SUBJ: UNESCO: MARKS DISCUSSION WITH PERMDEL ON MASS
MEDIA ISSUES

1. LEONARD MARKS VISITED PERMDEL FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON JUNE 16 TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON MEDIA ISSUES. PERMDEL PROVIDED GENERAL OVERVIEW OF US-UNESCO RELATIONS, AND COVERED WITH MARKS FOLLOWING SPECIFIC TOPICS OF INTEREST: THE US MEDIA COMMUNITY'S PREPARATIONS FOR M'BOW'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, POSSIBLE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE ASSISTANCE TO ASIAN PRESS INSTITUTE, 104 EXBD DECISIONS CONCERNING THE MASS MEDIA, AND STRATEGIES FOR HANDLING DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES.

2. DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES WAS FOREMOST TOPIC OF CONCERN TO MARKS. HE ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY FOR DIVERTING DECLARATION TO MCBRIDE COMMISSION. FAILING THIS, WESTERN NATIONS MIGHT SUBMIT OWN TEXT AND ASK 20TH GC TO ADOPT BOTH. THIS WOULD HIGHLIGHT FUNDAMENTAL IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES ON THIS SUBJECT, AND MEMBER STATES COULD CHOOSE FROM WHICHEVER
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PAGE 02 PARIS 19659 01 OF 02 201910Z

MODLE BEST SUITED THEM.

3. PERMDEL RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD HESITATE TO POSTPONE DECLARATION YET ANOTHER TWO YEARS BY DIVERTING TO MCBRIDE COMMISSION SINCE WE UNCERTAIN WHAT LINE COMMISSION WILL TAKE, AND IN ANY EVENT THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS MIGHT BE WORSE THAN THOSE IN THE

"DECEMBER 20" TEXT. ALSO, NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO A UNESCO DECISION WOULD FALL IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR (1980) FURTHER COMPLICATING US DECISION ON A TEXT. CONCERNING THE "TWO DECLARATION'S" SOLUTION, PERMDEL SAID THAT PROPOSITION IS AT BEST VERY COMPLICATED, AND SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO NEGOTIATE INSTEAD A SINGLE TEXT WE CAN LIVE WITH BEFORE DG'S FORMAL PROPOSAL IS TABLED. PERMDEL POINTED OUT THAT M'BOW INFORMED EXBD MEMBERS THAT HE WOULD TRY TO HAVE A DRAFT TEXT FOR PRESENTATION TO MEMBER STATES BY ABOUT THE LAST OF JUNE OR FIRST OF JULY.

4. MARKS AGREED WITH PERMDEL THAT PROBABLY IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO DIVERT DECLARATION TO MCBRIDE COMMISSION, BASED ON CONVERSATIONS HE HAD WITH US TOMMISSIONER, ELIE ABEL, WHO ALSO VIEWS COMMISSION CIRCUMSPECTLY. MARKS ALSO READILY ACCEPTED IDEA OF TRYING TO NEGOTIATE AN ACCEPTABLE TEXT. HE DISAVOWED PUBLIC STANDS CONCERNING UNESCO TAKEN BY GEORGE BEEBE AND OTHERS, AND SAID THE PRESS INDEED HAS CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH IT MUST FACE UP TO. RECOGNIZING THIS IN A DECLARATION SHOULD POSE NO PARTICULAR THREAT TO PRESS FREEDOM, SO LONG AS STATES ARE NOT MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEWS CONTENT. MARKS SAID THAT BASED ON ADMITTEDLY QUICK READING, HE SAW NOTHING SO TERRIBLE ABOUT DECEMBER 20 TEXT, ALTHOUGH HE WILL APPRECIATE CHANCE TO REVIEW CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARIS 19659 01 OF 02 201910Z

DEPT'S LEGAL ANALYSIS WHICH PERM DEL HAS SUPPLIED HIM.

5. PERM DEL RESPONDED THAT IF MARKS' VIEWS WERE GENERALLY REPRESENTATIVE OF US MEDIA COMMUNITY, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE ACCEPTABLE DRAFT DECLARATION WHICH COULD BE ADOPTED BY 20TH GC. WE REITERATED GENERAL IMPRESSION HELD BY OUR WESTERN ALLIES AT UNESCO AS WELL AS THIRD WORLD STATES THAT US WILL OPPOSE ANY TEXT, AND THAT WE ACCEPT NEGOTIATIONS ONLY AS TACTICAL PLOY FOR PUTTING OFF DECISION INDEFINITELY. (COMMENT: MANY HERE VIEW US POSITION RE ITEM 5.5.4 OF 104 EX BD AS SUPPORTING THIS CONCLUSION.) FURTHERMORE, SEVERAL CLOSE WESTERN ALLIES HAVE INFORMALLY CAUTIONED MEMBERS OF PERM DEL THAT IF THIS VIEW PROVES CORRECT AT THE GC, THE US MAY EXPOSE ALL OF THEM TO A WORSE DECLARATION, AND BRING ABOUT DETERIORATION OF SUPPORT WITHIN THE WESTERN GROUP ON OTHER ITEMS (WHERE US NEEDS THEIR SUPPORT IN ADDITION TO MASS MEDIA QUESTIONS.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19659 02 OF 02 201902Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 19659

NESCO

6. MARKS REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THESE POINTS, AND SHARED PERMDEL'S VIEW THAT M'BOW'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON MIGHT BE USED TO LAY FOUNDATIONS FOR ARRIVING AT AN ACCEPTABLE TEXT. PERMDEL EMPHASIZED THAT IF AN ACCOMMODATION COULD BE REACHED WITH THE DG, MODERATE AFRICAN STATES AND KEY LATIN AMERICANS, THEN SUCH A TEXT WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LARGE MAJORITY AT THE GC, AND IN ANY EVENT, THE MINORITY OPPOSITION WOULD BE ON THE OTHER SIDE AND WE COULD MAGNANIMOUSLY AGREE NOT TO FORCE IT ON THEM. BY WAY OF SUMMARIZING THRUST OF DISCUSSIONS, WE SUGGESTED TO MARKS THAT PERMDEL WOULD ASK DEPT'S AUTHORIZATION TO ASK M'BOW TO HOLD OFF A DECLARATION UNTIL AFTER HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THIS WOULD ALLOW US MEDIA COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP ITS POSITION, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH DEPT MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT A USG POSITION THAT MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE DG AND MIGHT SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR AN ACCEPTABLE DECLARATION AS WELL AS A STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTING IT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED. PERMDEL WOULD LIKE DEPT'S PERMISSION TO BRING TO M'BOW'S ATTENTION OUR INTEREST IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON TEXT OF DRAFT DECLARATION,
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PAGE 02 PARIS 19659 02 OF 02 201902Z

WITH PROVISIO THAT HE NOT ISSUE A FORMAL TEXT BEFORE WASHINGTON VISIT. WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT IN MEAN-

TIME, DEPARTMENT, MARKS, AND OTHER KEY US MEDIA
REPRESENTATIVES REWORK DEC 20 TEXT TO HIGHLIGHT THIRD
WORLD INTERESTS WHICH WE CAN SUPPORT, IN EXCHANGE FOR
DELETING PORTIONS WHICH WOULD CAUSE US TO OPPOSE
DECLARATION AT 20TH GC.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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